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For immediate release

Thursday, April 22, 2004

***Kernan helps propel Indiana economy forward
with latest job creation announcement***

*Jeffersonville company adding 225 positions;
Greendale business praised for continued growth*

Making a big splash in Southeast Indiana today, Gov. Joe Kernan visited Clark County's Jeffboat LLC to help launch the company's latest expansion.

Kernan, who has spent Wednesday and Thursday traveling throughout the area, joined local and company officials to announce Jeffboat's plans to invest more than \$3 million in new equipment and create at least **225 new jobs** over the next two years.

"This is another sign that Indiana's economy is bouncing back," Kernan said in **Jeffersonville**. "Over the last several months we've seen businesses throughout our state invest and grow again.

"As Indiana continues to recover from the effects of the national recession, I think it's plain to see that our efforts to cut business taxes, create new economic development tools through Energize Indiana and assess and improve our workforce's skills through Indiana@Work has spurred increased economic activity.

"We are thrilled to see Jeffboat make this commitment; it's great news, and we're hopeful there's much more to come," the governor added.

Through the Indiana departments of Commerce and Workforce Development (DWD), the state is putting \$209,000 toward Jeffboat's expansion effort. Commerce awarded a \$185,000 Skills Enhancement Fund grant to train the 225 new hires and upgrade the skills of 415 existing employees.

In addition, the company has signed on to Indiana@Work, the state's new workforce development program, and will receive up to \$24,000 in assistance. Working with DWD, six specific job categories have been profiled and up to 500 individuals will have their skills assessed as the company adds personnel. Positions profiled and to be filled include painter and sandblaster, machine operator, pipefitter, pipewelder, shipfitter and first-class welder.

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“Jeffboat greatly appreciates the support the governor and state of Indiana have provided for jobs training here in Southern Indiana,” said Jeffboat Vice President and General Manager Barker Price. “Skills training is critical to our success. It allows us to provide our customers with high quality marine vessels that meet their demanding operating needs.

“With the state’s support, Jeffboat’s plan to increase its workforce over the next two years is already underway,” he added.

Founded in 1939, Jeffboat designs and builds inland river hopper and tank barges, river towboats, as well as a variety of special vessels. The company has built over 10,000 vessels and currently employs 720 people.

“Jeffboat has been an important player in Indiana’s economy for a long, long time and today they are reaffirming their commitment not only to Indiana, but to their workforce and this community,” added Kernan, who also launched a new barge while on site.

Available through the state’s WorkOne Centers or Commerce regional offices, Indiana@Work is designed to develop an individual’s skills required for specific careers. The program also expands existing job matching and worker assessment programs statewide, creates electronic resumes to be used throughout the lifetime of a worker’s career and expands e-resumes to build around Energize Indiana’s four targeted industrial sectors of advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution.

Skills Enhancement Fund grants are awarded by the state’s Department of Commerce to Indiana businesses to help defray the costs of training new and existing employees in transferable and company-specific skills.

While in Southeast Indiana, the governor also paid a visit to **Anchor Glass Container in Greendale**. The governor thanked the company for its decision late last year to hire 33 new workers and invest \$13 million in its facility. Soon, the company will be building a new glass furnace and installing a bottle transport line to increase the plant’s production by up to 50 percent.

“This company is clearly forward-looking and it’s benefiting the local community,” Kernan said. “They’re improving their equipment and they’ve added new jobs. They’re making changes to ensure they remain competitive, and that’s just smart business.”

Anchor’s Dearborn County plant was built in 1951. Workers at the facility make glass container products, primarily for beverage companies. Many of the local employees have been with the company for decades.

“We welcome the governor’s interest in our company and his taking time out of his busy schedule to visit our facility,” said Jerry Bowles, Anchor’s plant manager. “In the fourth quarter of 2003, we undertook a major expansion and rebuilding effort. The governor’s visit today is certainly a positive for us, and along with our rebuilding program, it’s great momentum for this year and as we look ahead to 2005.”

“I cannot say enough about our existing companies in Indiana, those that consistently choose to expand here,” Kernan said. “They are our base, and they are important to our future.”

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